

State Building in San Francisco by Chief Justice Phil S. Gibson, the Chairman of the Judicial Council. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the relationship between the work which the Council was about to undertake and the work which various other bodies were doing in the field of administrative procedure. Representatives of various state boards and commissions were invited to attend, as were representatives from the State Bar of California and from the Attorney General's office. . . .

Your Committee then examined the various statutory provisions dealing with California administrative agencies, which had been summarized by the research staff. . . .

Following the preparation of this material, a public hearing was scheduled at the State Building in San Francisco for January 12, 1944. At this hearing representatives of the various medical licensing boards were invited to appear. They included: the Board of Medical Examiners; the Board of Dental Examiners; the Board of Pharmacy; the Board of Nurse Examiners; and two boards outside the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the Board of Osteopathic Examiners. This meeting, at which your Committee acted as a hearing board, was presided over by Justice John T. Nourse and was attended by representatives of the State Bar, the Attorney General and the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards, as well as by representatives of the various boards. A list of questions, prepared by the Council's staff, furnished the basis for a detailed investigation, by question and answer, of the existing procedure of each of the boards present. This material, which was reported in a stenographic transcript, dealt with all phases of administrative procedure from the issuance of licenses to their revocation. In addition to the material already assembled, it provided your Committee with a fairly complete picture of the operation of the agencies present. In addition, each agency was asked to submit copies of all official forms used by it, and of all administrative rules which were generally available to the public.

This hearing was followed by a second held on February 3, 1944, and by a third, held on March 1, 1944. . . .

In the meantime, information has been gathered from other States in which similar work is being done. The Committee has been aided by the report of the U. S. Attorney General's Committee on Administrative Procedure, by the Benjamin Report on Administrative Adjudication in New York, by the work of the Ohio Administrative Law Commission and by suggestions from the Illinois Administrative Practice and Review Commission. . . .

Your Committee hopes to have its tentative conclusions ready for presentation to the Judicial Council early this summer. . . .

It is too early as yet to report upon the many ideas which have been discussed in connection with the Committee's work. One proposal, which has been discussed rather widely, may be mentioned. *The State Bar has approved the principle of using a so-called "hearing officer" for the purpose of aiding the various administrative boards in the conduct of their hearings.* Your Committee has asked each of the board representatives appearing before it whether, in his opinion, his particular board would favor the use of a hearing officer, trained in the conduct of quasi-judicial hearings.

Such an officer would either conduct the hearings as a non-voting chairman in the board's presence or would hold the hearing in the board's absence as a referee whose findings would be submitted to the board for decision.

While the answers to this proposal have not yet been fully tabulated, many of the boards have indicated their

desire to avail themselves of the use of a trained hearing officer under some system which would not deprive the boards of the fundamental power delegated to them by the Legislature. Your Committee intends to explore this matter in more detail before reaching a conclusion with respect to it, and the same observation can be made with regard to many other thoughts expressed at the hearings held by it so far. In the meantime, however, the Committee will welcome any suggestions which may be made in connection with the problems upon which it is working.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN T. NOURSE, *Chairman.*

C. J. GOODELL,

MAURICE T. DOOLING, JR.

Concerning Complimentary Opinions of "C. & W. M.":

(COPY)

NORTHWEST MEDICINE

Journal of the State Medical Associations

Oregon, Washington, Idaho

225 Cobb Building

Seattle, 1, Washington

July 13, 1944

Dr. George H. Kress, Editor,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Dr. Kress:

I always look over my copy of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE with much interest, commonly finding something which attracts my attention. This is natural since this is one of the best state medical journals published. . . .

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CLARENCE A. SMITH,
Editor-in-Chief.

1 1 1

(COPY)

RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL JOURNAL

106 Francis Street

Providence, 3, Rhode Island

July 20, 1944.

George H. Kress, M.D., Editor,
CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE,
San Francisco 8, California.

Dear Dr. Kress:

We will be pleased to place the San Francisco County Medical Society on our mailing list to receive the Rhode Island Medical Journal each month and in exchange we will appreciate the additional copy of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE to be sent to me personally.

Your publication is kept on file here in the Medical Library and I find it one of the most interesting that we have, and therefore it will aid me greatly if I may have the additional copy for my personal records for my reference.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOHN E. FARRELL, *Managing Editor.*

Desault's Bandage.—Though the fame of Desault has been overshadowed by his brilliant pupil, François Xavier Bichat, there can be no question that he was one of the most distinguished surgeons in the Europe of that day. He was a founder of topographical anatomy, and there is scarcely any other domain of surgery which he did not enrich. He did much to improve the treatment of fractures, and developed the technique of ligating blood vessels for aneurysms.—Warner's *Calendar of Medical History.*